

STUDYSYNC at KMS

WHAT IS STUDYSYNC?

StudySync is the adopted English Language Arts curriculum for grades 6–8 in the BWRSD. KMS students access StudySync both in print and online. StudySync blends contemporary and classic literature in the program's rigorous reading routines. Skill lessons build students' foundational language and comprehension skills as well as reading, writing, and research inquiry skills.

Learn more at StudySync.com

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PARENT INFORMATION



Feel inspired by StudySync's ELA curriculum. With intuitive navigation and a twenty-first-century design, StudySync empowers teachers to engage students while teaching the literature that they love.

Students access StudySync via Clever and/ or Google Classroom.

[Parent Information Letter](#)

[Overview of the StudySync Curriculum](#)

UNITS OF STUDY

Grade 6

The Grade 6 Core ELA Units take students through literary and nonfiction texts that explore individuals facing crucial decisions, learning from their responses, becoming a better version of themselves. Unit 1, *Testing Our Limits*, examines what we do when life gets hard. Unit 2, *You and Me*, focuses on relationships and asks the essential question: How do relationships shape us? Unit 3, *In the Dark*, asks students to consider how they can figure out what to do when there are no instructions, while Unit 4, *Personal Best*, asks students to consider the unit’s driving question—Which qualities of character matter most?—by providing a range of texts that examine individuals wrestling with realistic and familiar struggles. Next, Unit 5, *Making Your Mark*, asks students to think about their own story. Finally, students finish up the year by thinking about the future as they address the question “Who are you meant to be?” in Unit 6, *True to Yourself*.

<p>Unit Title: Testing Our Limits Essential Question: What do we do when life gets hard?</p>	<p>Genre Focus: Fiction Extended Writing Project: Narrative</p>	<p>Texts within the unit’s genre and across other genres present different perspectives on responding to life’s unexpected difficulties.</p>	<p>Sample Readings: Eleven Red Scarf Girl The Mighty Miss Malone Hatchet</p>
<p>Unit Title: You and Me Essential Question: How do relationships shape us?</p>	<p>Genre Focus: Poetry Extended Writing Project: Argumentative</p>	<p>This unit offers a wide variety of literature about relationships from both fiction and informational texts.</p>	<p>Sample Readings: Walk Two Moons Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry</p>
<p>Unit Title: In the Dark Essential Question: How do you know what to do when there are no instructions?</p>	<p>Genre Focus: Informational Text Extended Writing Project: Informative</p>	<p>This unit offers a mixture of texts, both fiction and informational, about people that face uncertainty and take action.</p>	<p>Sample Readings: classic myth “Heroes Every Child Should Know: Perseus,” Rick Riordan’s <i>The Lightning Thief</i> Carl Hiaasen’s <i>Hoot</i></p>
<p>Unit Title: Personal Best Essential Question: Which qualities of character matter most?</p>	<p>Genre Focus: Argumentative Text Extended Writing Project: Literary Analysis</p>	<p>This unit offers a mixture of texts about real individuals and fictional characters who achieve their personal best through wrestling with familiar and realistic struggles.</p>	<p>Sample Readings: I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai. Freedom Walkers “All Summer in a Day” “Priscilla and the Wimps”</p>

Grade 7

The Grade 7 Core ELA units take students through literary and nonfiction texts that explore how individuals are affected by their choices, journeys, and interactions with others. Students will begin this unit as readers, and they will finish as writers, as they apply what they have learned about writing genres to their own writing projects.

<p>Unit Title: Conflicts and Clashes Essential Question: When do differences become conflicts?</p>	<p>Genre Focus: Fiction Writing: Narrative</p>	<p>This unit offers a wide variety of literature for students to explore questions while also exploring texts in the unit’s genre focus, fiction.</p>	<p>Sample Readings: Rikki Tikki Tavi Monsters Are Due on Maple</p>
<p>Unit Title: Highs and Lows Essential Question: What do we learn from love and loss?</p>	<p>Genre Focus: Poetry Extended Writing Project: Literary Analysis</p>	<p>The unit offers a wide variety of literature including both contemporary and classic works. The selections also include poems about family relationships.</p>	<p>Sample Readings: Excerpts from <i>Tangerine</i>, and Dickens’s <i>A Christmas Carol</i> <i>“The Highwayman”</i></p>
<p>Unit Title: Chasing the Impossible Essential Question: What makes a dream worth pursuing?</p>	<p>Genre Focus: Argumentative Text Extended Writing Project: Argument</p>	<p>The selections convey a range of messages about people overcoming obstacles to create a better life for themselves and their community.</p>	<p>Sample Readings: Excerpt from <i>We Beat the Street</i> <i>The First Americans</i> Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad</p>
<p>Unit Title: Moment of Truth Essential Question: How can one event change everything?</p>	<p>Genre & Writing Focus: Informational Text</p>	<p>Texts explore the events and moments that shaped the lives of extraordinary individuals. Students learn how a moment can activate a chain of events that result in dramatic change.</p>	<p>Sample Readings: <i>The Boy Who Harnessed Wind</i> <i>“Casey at the Bat”</i></p>

Grade 8

The Grade 8 Core ELA Units take students through literary and nonfiction texts that explore how individuals are affected by their choices, their relationships, and the world around them. In Unit 1, *Everyone Loves a Mystery*, students will try to determine what attracts us to stories of suspense. Unit 2, *Past and Present*, asks the essential question: *What makes you, you?* Unit 3, *No Risk, No Reward*, asks students to consider why we take chances, while Unit 4, *Hear Me Out*, asks students to consider the unit’s driving question—*How do you choose the right words?*—by providing a range of texts that allow students to consider how a person’s words can affect an audience. Next, Unit 5’s *Trying Times* asks students to think about who they are in a crisis. Finally, students finish up the year with an examination of science fiction and fantasy texts as they think about the question “What do other worlds teach us about our own?” in Unit 6, *Beyond Reality*.

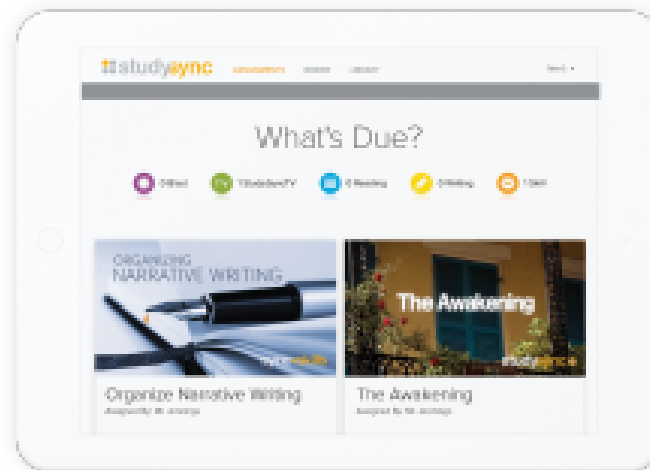
<p>Unit Title: Everyone Loves a Mystery</p> <p>Essential Question: What attracts us to the mysterious?</p>	<p>Genre Focus: Fiction</p> <p>Writing: Narrative</p>	<p>After reading classic thrillers and surprising mysteries, students will craft fiction, applying what they have learned about suspense to their own narrative writing projects.</p>	<p>Sample Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tell Tale Heart • Monster • Excerpt from Ten Days in a Mad House
<p>Unit Title: Past and Present</p> <p>Essential Question: What makes you, you?</p>	<p>Genre Focus: Poetry</p> <p>Extended Writing</p> <p>Project: Literary Analysis</p>	<p>This unit will explore what it means to be yourself, to feel like nobody, and even to feel on top of the world, using the lens of figurative language to understand how authors express varied ideas about identity and belonging, past and present.</p>	<p>Sample Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I’m Nobody! Who are you?” • Excerpt from <i>The House on Mango Street</i> • “The Road Not Taken.”
<p>Unit Title: No Risk, No Reward</p> <p>Essential Question: Why do we take chances?</p>	<p>Genre Focus: Informational Text</p> <p>Extended Writing</p> <p>Project: Informational</p>	<p>Texts are from authors who explore risk-taking from a variety of viewpoints and genres.</p>	<p>Sample Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanishing Island • Excerpts from Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave & The Call of the Wild
<p>Unit Title: Hear Me Out</p> <p>Essential Question: How do you choose the right words?</p>	<p>Genre & Writing Focus: Argumentative</p>	<p>Some of history’s greatest wordsmiths are represented in this unit including historical speeches.</p>	<p>Sample Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ain’t I a Woman? • The Gettysburg Address • Excerpt from Across Five Aprils

Because the print Student Edition can be consumable, students can engage with the texts and lessons by annotating and interacting with the text just like they are able to do in the StudySync digital student platform. Students can also transition between print and digital as fits their needs or the needs of their classroom, using the two options for access interchangeably.

Student Print



Student Digital Account



Literacy

The literacy period was designed to reinforce skills and standards in the core ELA curriculum. This instructional pathway uses full length texts to build vocabulary, comprehension, and writing skills — the same way the CORE Studysync curriculum does with shorter text selections.

